

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PRETOR 04674 150818Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 DRC-01 HA-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /080 W
-----095930 150823Z /21/40

O 121127Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2084
USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T PRETORIA 4674

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 4674 VICE 4874)

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PORG, WA, SF
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: SAG PHOBIA ABOUT SWAPO

REF: (A) STATE 204535, (B) PRETORIA 4672

1. WHILE I AGREE IT IS ENTIRELY CONCEIVABLE THAT SAG
COULD BE TRYING TO DOCUMENT CASE FOR SOME KIND OF FURTHER
MILITARY ACTION AGAINST SWAPO ELEMENTS (REF A), I THINK
IT WOULD BE TRAGIC TO UNDERESTIMATE THE DEGREE OF GENUINE
CONCERN THAT THROBS BEHIND THE NERVOUSNESS OF THE SOUTH
AFRICAN MILITARY AND SOME SAG POLITICIANS ABOUT THE THREAT
THAT SWAPO ACTIVITIES REPRESENT WHETHER REAL, IMAGINED, OR
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PRETOR 04674 150818Z

EVEN OVERDRAMATIZED FOR EFFECT. SOUTH AFRICAN FEAR AND
DISTRUST OF POSSIBLE UN-WESTERN FAVORITISM TOWARD SWAPO IS VERY
GREAT. WHILE THEMSELVES EXPERTS AT POSTURING, SAG
LEADERS ARE NONETHELESS AFFECTED BY THE BELLIGERANT STATE-
MENTS MADE BY SAM NUJOMA, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THEIR
KNOWLEDGE THAT HE DID NOT WILLINGLY ACCEPT THE WESTERN
FIVE'S NAMIBIA PROPOSAL BUT WAS COERCED INTO IT BY THE

FRONT LINE STATES.

2. AT A LARGE SOCIAL FUNCTION LAST NIGHT GERMAN AMBASSADOR EICK RELATED TO ME A CONVERSATION HE HAD WITH SADF CHIEF GENERAL MALAN JUST A FEW MINUTES EARLIER IN WHICH MALAN BITTERLY ACCUSED THE WESTERN FIVE OF SELLING SOUTH AFRICA OUT TO SWAPO. (EICK APPROACHED MALAN BECAUSE OF SUGGESTION NEIL VAN HEERDEN IN DEPT. OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAD MADE EARLIER TO CANADIAN AMBASSADOR GRANDE THAT SOMEONE LIKE GRANDE OR EICK SHOULD TALK TO SA MILITARY LEADERS BECAUSE THEY WERE GETTING "AWFULLY UPTIGHT" ABOUT SWAPO.) EICK CONFIRMED THAT MALAN WAS INDEED VERY "UPTIGHT." EICK'S RESPONSE TO MALAN WAS THAT SAG WAS OVERLOOKING FACT THAT ONCE UN MONITORED SETTLEMENT PROCEDURES GOT UNDERWAY, SWAPO WOULD BE ONLY ONE OF THE PARTIES, AND THAT FREE AND FAIR ELECTION HAD TO TAKE PLACE SO THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF SIMPLY HANDING THINGS OVER TO SWAPO. EICK SAID MALAN LISTENED, THOUGH HE CONTINUED TO SEEM HIGHLY SUSPICIOUS. MALAN APPARENTLY DID NOT MENTION

SPECIFIC SAG FEARS OR INTELLIGENCE OF POSSIBLE SWAPO PLANS FOR MAJOR CROSS-BORDER ACTIVITIES.

3. I BELIEVE WE MUST TAKE SAG FEARS AND ACCUSATIONS DIRECTED AT SWAPO SERIOUSLY EVEN IF THERE ARE ELEMENTS OF HYPERBOLE IN THEM AS WELL AS A POSSIBILITY
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 PRETOR 04674 150818Z

THAT THE SAG VOICES THEM WITH THE DUAL INTENT OF URGING ANTI-SWAPO ACTION ON THE WEST AND PREPARING A CASE FOR WHATEVER FUTURE ACTIONS THEY FEEL THEY MAY HAVE TO TAKE. WHILE WE SHOULD IN NO WAY CONTRIBUTE TO THE CASE-BUILDING ELEMENT, THERE WOULD SEEM TO BE EVERY REASON TO URGE UPON SWAPO BOTH DIRECTLY AND THROUGH THE FRONT LINE STATES THAT (A) THERE CAN BE NO JUSTIFICATION IN THEIR CONTINUING GUERRILLA ATTACKS AND SABOTAGE NOW THAT WE ARE AT THE STARTING POINT OF A PEACEABLE SETTLEMENT PROCESS, AND (B) THEY SHOULD NOT RISK PROVOKING SAG COUNTERACTIONS WHICH COULD LEAD TO BREAKDOWN OF THE PROCESS AND DESTROY FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE ANY HOPE OF ACHIEVING ANY KIND OF SETTLEMENT IN WHICH ALL PARTIES COULD PARTICIPATE.

4. REGARDLESS OF ANY DIPLOMATIC APPROACHES THAT ARE CONSIDERED, ONE THING THAT SEEMS ESSENTIAL IS A PUBLIC CALL TO ALL PARTIES, AS SUGGESTED PARA 1 REF (B), IDEALLY WITH SPECIFIC MENTION OF SWAPO AS WELL AS THE SAG, TO REFRAIN FROM ANY ACTS OF VIOLENCE OR PROVOCATION, BACKED UP BY APPROACHES TO THE FRONT LINE STATES AND POSSIBLY EVEN CUBA. WE SUSPECT THAT IT WILL BE

ANGOLA AND THE CUBANS THAT ARE LIKELY TO BE THE
MOST DETERMINING INFLUENCE ON SWAPO OVER THE COMING
WEEKS.
EDMONDSON

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: THREATS, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PRETOR04674
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780333-0250
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780870/aaaacggq.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 12c28264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 204535, 78 PRETORIA 4672
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1758510
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: SAG PHOBIA ABOUT SWAPO
TAGS: PORG, WA, SF
To: STATE USUN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/12c28264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014